Socialist Worker

SEMPERIT closure:
Say NO to another Packard

The closure of Semperit and the loss of 650 jobs is sheer madness.

■ The company made £5 million profit last year.
■ It is projected to make another £5 million this year.

What do workers have to do to keep their jobs? Semperit workers did everything they were told to do by the company:

Workers gave up the 3% increase they were due under the PESP. They took vouchers instead of a wage increase this year. They co-operated in raising productivity; they accepted jobs cuts and team working

According to the government and the economists this is supposed to be the way to keep your job.

But the company has ripped Semperit workers off.

The only reason for the closure is the greed of Conti-Uniroyal, Semperit's parent Company—they now want to make super-profits from their operations.

650 families are going to be forced to live on the dole because of the outrageous greed of a company which can't tolerate a profit of only £5 million a year.

■ *WHAT SHOULD THE WORKERS DO?*

Everyone will tell the Semperit workers that they should behave like good boys and girls in the hope that another buyer can be found to take over the plant.

But the company has made it clear that it does want to sell the plant as a going concern. Company Boss, Seitner said they will not let their technology be used by a competitor.

Even if they were pressurised to sell to another company, half the jobs would still go and wages would be slashed.

The workers do, however, hold one major trump card: It is the plant and machinery.

For example Semperit have invested millions in new machinery including 10 state of the art tyre building machines at an estimated cost of half a million pounds each, and millions of pounds worth of other new equipment.

They should not be let walk away with these assets while they wreck the lives of workers and their families.

■ *OCCUPATION*

Semperit mustn't become another Packard.

Experience shows redundancies can be fought by occupations.

The former car workers of Talbot were provided with jobs by the Government as porters in public buildings because their occupation created enough stink to force the government to move.

Clondalkin Paper Mills workers survived for years because their occupation hit the headlines and forced Haughey to give a guarantee that a new buyer would be found.

Occupation of Semperit will do two things:

■ It would stop the company moving its valuable equipment until they came to a proper arrangement with the workers rather than simply dictating their terms;

■ It would create a political focus that would get massive support throughout the country from people sick and tired of multinationals taking their profits and grants and running.

The Socialist Workers Party is offering the Semperit workers every support and encouragement in whatever action they choose to take.

We believe it is high time ordinary working people begin to organise to fight back against greedy bosses like Semperit and the politicians that allow them to wreck our lives.

We are organising a meeting (details below) to discuss what can be done about the crisis in Semperit and other companies like them. The meeting will be addressed by a worker from Semperit.

We urge anyone in Ballyfermot or elsewhere who is angry about the way the workers are being treated to come along to the meeting and give every support to the Semperit workers

SEMPERIT CLOSURE:
Can we beat the multi-nationals?
Monday 30 Sept, 8.00pm
The County Bar, Grange Cross, Ballyfermot
Speakers:
A SEMPERIT WORKER & KIERAN ALLEN (Editor of Socialist Worker)

Join the Socialist Workers Party!

If you would like to join the SWP or receive more information fill in this slip and return to PO Box 1648, Dublin 8
Tel: (01) 872 2682

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